



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Nokukhanya Khumalo
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nkhumalo@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 13451

Date: Thursday September 05, 2019
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Letter

In terms of Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Dr Farai Tererai
Working for Wetlands Programme

Working for Wetlands (WfWetlands) is a government programme mandated to protect pristine wetlands, promote their wise-use and rehabilitate those that are damaged throughout South Africa, with an emphasis on complying with the principles of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and using only local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Due to the nature of the project, it is important to note that the very objectives of the WfWetlands Programme are to improve both environmental and social circumstances

Working for Wetlands is proposing to rehabilitate the wetland area within the Baleni nature reserve located in the Greater Giyane Local Municipality of the Limpopo Province. They plan on accomplishing this by constructing weirs/gabions that will create a barrier that will allow for sedimentation build-up to slow the water flow and re-wet the wetland area. There will be 28 intervention areas in the wetland including a 325m cattle fence.

In the Final Comment issued against this case, SAHRA requested that the Final BAR is uploaded to the case and the EMPr to include the following:

The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit accepts the recommendations provided in the HIA report however, the buffer zone around the grave must be increased to 30m.

The following additional recommendations must also be included as part of the EMPr for implementation during construction:

- An archaeologist must be appointed to undertake a weekly monitoring programme of all construction activities and develop a heritage training manual for the induction of the construction crew and ECO.*
- All access points to the construction site, construction camps, laydown areas and stockpile areas must be assessed by an archaeologist prior to the construction phase. A report of the walk down*



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assessment must be submitted to SAHRA.

- *Once the design of the weir is finalised the potential extent of flooding must be determined and the potential impacts to the surrounding heritage sites must be assessed. This assessment must be included in the walk-down report.*
- *A CMP must be developed from the findings of this assessment, the CMP must also address any monitoring measures required for the long-term maintenance of the weirs.*
- *In the unlikely event that fossils are uncovered during construction then construction must cease within the immediate vicinity, a buffer of 30 m must be established, and a palaeontologist called in to inspect the finds. The palaeontologist must obtain a section 35(4) permit in terms of NHRA and Chapter IV NHRA Regulations, before any fossils are collected.*
- *If there are any new heritages resources are discovered during construction and operation phases of the proposed development, then a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the findings at the expense of the developer.*
- *If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required at the expense of the developer. Mitigation will only be carried out after the archaeologist or palaeontologist obtains a permit in terms of section 35 of the NHRA (Act 25 of 1999). You may contact SAHRA APM Unit for further details: (Nokukhanya Khumalo/Phillip Hine 021 202 8654).*
- *If any unmarked human burials are uncovered and the archaeologist called in to inspect the finds and/or the police find them to be heritage graves, then mitigation may be necessary and the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit must be contacted for processes to follow (Thingahangwi Tshivase/Mimi Seetelo 072 802 1251).*
- *The Final BAR and its appendices must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS.*
- *Once a decision on the EA application is reached, the record of decision must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS.*

The EMPr report and rehabilitation plans for the Baleni Nature Reserve Wetland submitted to the case, were compiled in 2018 and they have not been amended to include our comments and the recommendation within the HIA and the Final Comments.

The Rehabilitation plans and EMPr must be amended to include our recommendations and the amended reports and Final BAR must be submitted to the case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

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Yours faithfully

Nokukhanya Khumalo
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/520847>